The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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RAILROAD EMPLOYES NOT PAID HIGH WAGE

Washington, Aug. 22.—The claim that railroad employes receive high wages, so persistently urged by the public press, is not supported in the report of a railroad wage commission, made last year. The chairman of this commission was Hon. Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior.

The commission said:

"It has been a somewhat popular impression that railroad employes were among the most highly paid workers, but figures gathered from the railroads disposed of this belief. Fifty-one per cent of all the employes during December, 1917, received $75 per month or less, and 80 per cent received $100 per month or less. Even among the locomotive engineers, commonly spoken of as highly paid, a preponderating number receives less than $170 per month, and this compensation they have attained by the most compact and complete organization, handled with a full appreciation of all strategic values. Between the grades receiving from $150 to $250 per month there is included less than 3 per cent of all the employes (excluding officials) and these aggregate less than 60,000 out of a grand total of 2,000,000.

"The greatest number of employes on all roads fall into the class receiving between $60 and $65 per month—181,693; while within the range of the next $10 in monthly salary there is a total of 312,761 persons. In December, 1917, there were 111,477 clerks receiving annual pay of $900 or less. In 1917 the average pay of this class was but $56.77 per month. There were 270,865 section men whose average pay as a class was $50.21 per month; 121,000 other unskilled laborers whose average pay was $58.25 per month; 130,075 station service employes whose average pay was $58.57 per month; 75,325 road freight brakemen and flagmen whose average pay was $100.17 per month, and 16,465 road passenger brakemen and flagmen whose average pay was $91.10 per month.

"These, it is to be noted, are not pre-war figures; they represent conditions after a year of war, and two years of rising prices. And each dollar now represents in its power to purchase a place in which to live, food to eat and clothing to wear, but 71 cents as against the 100 cents of January 1, 1916."

Since this report was issued the railroad shop employes secured wage increases that approximate 34 per cent to meet the 71 per cent increase in living costs that the commission acknowledged. The railroad workers now ask for another increase to maintain advancing living costs.

METAL POLISHERS GAIN.

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 22.—Metal polishers employed by the Nye Stove company have secured the 48-hour week and a 70-cent minimum.

Indianapolis, Aug. 22.—The Home Stove company has settled a strike by conceding the demands of its organized polishers. The union is recognized, the eight-hour day is established and a 12 per cent increase, dating from the first of the year, is granted.

Cincinnati, Aug. 22.—The Metal Polishers' International union has chartered affiliates in the following cities: Titusville and Lancaster, Pa.; Saginaw, Mich.; North Chicago, Ill., and Southington, Conn.

Hamilton, Ohio, Aug. 22.—A 45-hour week, and a 70-cent minimum, with an additional 5 cents an hour on or before the first of the year are features of an agreement signed by Metal Polishers' union No. 43 and the Mosler Safe and Lock company.

R. R. OWNERS WARNED.

Philadelphia, Aug. 22.—The North American sounds an editorial warning to railroad owners that they must solve the question of watered stock and cease attempting to protect these fictitious values. The newspaper assures its readers that it does not favor government ownership, but that "it requires no gift of prophecy to foresee that unless the railroad interests can suggest some new plan, government ownership would appear to be inevitable."

The editor acknowledges that the railroads' "weakest line of defense" is their attempt to hold watered stock and force the people to pay dividends on these values. This, declares the North American, is the railroad workers' "heaviest weapon of attack" in their advocacy of the Plumb plan.

WANT PRICES SET.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Aug. 22.—"What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," declares Queensland organized workers, who insist that the government extend its policy of fixing wages.

In a memorial presented to the prime minister, the unionists declare that "the present arbitration act is useless, as any increases in wages gained in the industrial court are entirely swallowed up by the profits put on by the mercantile fraternity. We ask the government to appoint a commission to fix reasonable prices for food and clothing so that these necessities are within the reach of all."

SILK WORKERS WIN.

Shamokin, Pa., Aug. 22.—Organized silk workers, members of the United Textile Workers, have won their strike against the J. H. & C. K. Eagle company. The workers secure a flat 12½ per cent increase, a 48-hour week in all departments and a virtual recognition of the union. The company sued the strikers for $200,000 damages, but this has been dropped, and has an injunction that was issued against the strikers.

UNIONISTS DEFEND "COPS."

Boston, Aug. 22.—Municipal officials have denied city policemen the right to form a union and affiliate with the A. F. of L. The policemen have been notified that any one who disobeys orders will be discharged and the Boston central labor union has taken a hand. It gives notice to these officious officials that if they carry out their threat a general strike will result.

CO-OPS. PROSPER.

Bloomington, Ill., Aug. 22.—The Co-operative society reports that it broke all records for business done during the last quarter. After sufficient funds were set aside to care for depreciation an 8 per cent dividend was declared.

GOVERNMENT WORKERS WITH ORGANIZED LABOR

Paris, France, Aug. 22.—At their first meeting since 1914 the congress of public officials voted to change their "associations" into trade unions and affiliate with the French Federation of Labor.

Sixty-eight organizations, with a membership of 500,000, were represented at the congress, whose membership consists of government salaried employes. Every field of public work—federal, departmental and municipal — was represented. School teachers, college professors, tax collectors, policemen, the personnel of penitentiaries, army and navy establishments, merchant marine, mints, waterways, forests and every other local and national department of public service had a voice in the congress.

The spirit of the congress—that the united trade union movement is the only force capable of securing protection to the workers—was so general that the resolution to transform the "associations" into trade unions, and affiliate with the Federation of Labor was passed without a recorded dissenting vote.

The congress declared that the politicians, seeking counsel exclusively of the employers and profiteers generally, have convicted themselves of incapacity to bring security to the masses, and they have established a regime "too favorable to those who own and too severe for those who live by their labor."

The national committee, representing the 68 organizations, was instructed to elaborate a trade union program of economic reorganization that will protect the government employe.

AGAIN DENIES OLD YARN.

San Francisco, Aug. 22.—Editor Scharrenberg of the Seamen's Journal again takes up the weary task of denying that the seamen's law drove the Pacific Mail Steamship company off the Pacific ocean.

The latest to spin this yarn is Homer L. Ferguson, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. At a banquet he said the Pacific ocean was being turned into a "Japanese lake."

"It beats all," writes Scharrenberg, "what a lot of nonsense well-fed, portly gentlemen can get off their chests at a public banquet. At the risk of boring our readers, we will state here for the hundred and 'steenth time that the Pacific mail people were never driven from the ocean. When the war came along they found the pickings on the Atlantic ever so much better than on the Pacific, so they forthwith sent all their best and largest ships over to the east coast. Their smaller ships, all of them vessels of an old and obsolete type, the company sold at a profit, the size of which would, before the war, have staggered the most imaginative of the directors. In fact, the company had tried for several years before the war to sell these ships, but without success.

"And that's all there is to the yarn about the seamen's act driving the Pacific mail from the ocean, Mr. Homer L. Ferguson to the contrary notwithstanding."

WOULD STOP PICKETING.

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 22.—Locked out employes of the Overland automobile plant have been ordered by Federal Judge Killets to show him why picketing at this plant should not be stopped.

Several thousand employes were locked out when they refused to lengthen their work week from 45 to 48 hours. One of the company's southern agents asked Judge Killets to issue an injunction against both the parties to the lockout, as its business was interfered with. This process was satisfactory to the Overland as the court ordered the works opened and appointed a business man to carry the order into effect. The court did not stop the establishment of the long work day, however, but the employes were restricted in their picketing. Now the court suggests that picketing be eliminated.

In a statement to the trade union movement of America, the Toledo central labor union says:

"Every conceivable scheme has been resorted to to weaken the morale of these workers. We have had dozens of our people injured by ex-soldiers in uniform, sworn in as private guards. Seven of our people have been cited for contempt of court and one member of organized labor has been sentenced to five months in jail for calling an Overland strikebreaker a scab."

RELIEF ACT BROADENED.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Under an order by the president the federal civil service regulations have been amended so that the federal board for vocational training will test, train and certify to the United States civil service commission disabled ex-service men who desire to enter civil service employment. The amended regulations permit the fullest co-operation of government agencies with the federal board in the vocational rehabilitation of disabled soldiers, sailors and Marines.

MANY BABIES DIE.

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 22.—Child mortality in July was double that of any previous month since the state records were kept, and State Health Commissioner Black has notified milk dealers that they must keep their products in a sanitary condition. The quality of milk is blamed by this official, although other citizens suggest that another factor is the failure of mothers to buy milk because of high prices and low wages.

HENS WORK OVERTIME.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 22.—The advice "produce more" that is being dinned into the ears of American workmen can not apply to the American hen since the government has uncovered vast holdings of eggs in cold storage plants. In this city over 18,000,000 eggs have been seized, and it is reported that millions of eggs, stored by speculators, have been found in Detroit, Buffalo, San Diego and elsewhere.

U. S. EMPLOYES TO MEET.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Officers of the National Federation of Federal Employes have issued a call for the third annual convention of this organization, to be held in San Francisco, beginning September 8.

CIGAR CLERKS UNITE.

New York, Aug. 22.—Several hundred clerks employed by the united cigar stores corporation and other chain stores have organized and affiliated with the Retail Clerks' International Protective association.

"UP-TO-DATE" PAINT HAS DEADLY EFFECT

New York, Aug. 22.—Under old conditions, a painter could work for 30 years and keep in fair condition, but now the limit is 10 or 12 years because of modern paints, say officers of the Painters' union.

"The old-fashioned way of making paint was with oil and zinc. Then white lead was introduced. That dough becomes poisonous. But the lead is not the only thing. The chemists have invaded the factory and brought in a hundred substitutes designed to quick covering and drying.

"Five minutes in a room where painters work would be long enough to convince the average man of the poisonous nature of these mixtures. No matter how much ventilation he can get, it is impossible for a painter to stay more than an hour in a place filled with such deadly fumes. The one purpose of the manufacturers is to produce a paint that will give quick results. Sometimes they can get the appearance of two coats with one. Of course, it does not last so well, but that makes no difference.

"Beauty of color and permanence were the qualities formerly demanded in paint. Now everything is sacrificed to speed and present effect. If the painters could choose between the five-day week under present conditions and six days with less injurious paint, they would take the old conditions.

"Dr. Harris, the occupational disease expert, examined hundreds of painters for months. He reported that a large percentage of them were diseased as a result of their work. With the assistance of the health department, the brotherhood carried on an educational campaign. We tried to teach the boys to handle these materials with less injury to their health. Even with this, the toll of those hurt by lead poisoning and other ailments is enormous."

DON'T SCARE ACTORS.

New York, Aug. 22.—Striking actors are not scared at the managers' threat to close every theater, since the stage employes and musicians have joined in the strike.

Commenting on this move by the managers, Frank Gillmore, executive secretary of the Actors' Equity association, said:

"I can only say that that will not alter our resolution to stick until final victory is assured. I wish to remind the managers that a theater remains a theater only so long as actors are performing there. Without actors the theater is nothing but a building. The actors' talents can be as easily exercised in a hall, in a tent, or even in a vacant lot. The public will gather to see the actor, no matter where he acts.

"Therefore, if the theaters are closed to us, we shall organize companies to tour the country, just as Mrs. Fiske and Mme. Bernhardt did when a powerful trust discriminated against them."

IMMIGRATION IS UP.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Advocates of unrestricted immigration seem to have abandoned hope that old times will be restored, and they are now favoring "selective immigration" on the percentage basis.

The admission of Japanese on the percentage basis is favored by Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, who is charged by United States Senator Phelan of California with being "a Japanese agent." The charge is hotly denied by the accused. Senator Phelan has made public a letter alleged to be written to Dr. Gulick by a Japanese, who says:

"When I was in New York you intimated to me that you would like to come to California to present your proposal before the California public. I wonder whether you still think that idea advisable, in spite of the fact that you have been made an object of severe criticism both in Washington and California.

"If you still think that your trip to California will do much good, I think we can find a way to bring you here. I should be interested to have your opinion on this matter."

AFTER BIG R. R. PROFITS.

Washington, Aug. 22.—In a press notice issued by the national popular government league it is stated that "it is an open secret here in Washington that the real owners of the railroads don't want them back unless the government will guarantee them at present an actual profit of $1,200,000,000, to come out of advanced rates, or else a straight subsidy, with no federal control worth a whisper in the wind.

"It is an open secret here in Washington that the instant the speculative value is taken out of railroad stocks, that moment the awful fear of 'socialism' will disappear and the big boys will be ready to sell to Uncle Sam. The test will then come as to how much shall be paid."

MUST PAY BENEFITS.

Victoria, Canada, Aug. 22.—The Canadian Pacific railroad has been defeated in its effort to stop the workmen's compensation board paying benefits arising out of the foundering of the steamer Princess Sophia in Alaskan waters last October. The railroad company owned the boat and when the board awarded benefits an injunction was secured against it, the railroad company holding that the vessel was in foreign waters and outside the jurisdiction of the board. The injunction is now set aside.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Aug. 22.—Contracting teamsters have accepted the new wage list of Teamsters' union, which raises rates $1 a day for all classes. The old rates were $3 to $5.50 a day.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Street cleaning teamsters employed by the District of Columbia have organized and affiliated with the trade union movement.

WOULD REVOKE R. R. GRANTS.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Revocation of railroad rights-of-way through Indian reservations or lands where the grantees, over a period of five years, have failed to construct roads or utilize other land granted them has been recommended by Secretary of the Interior Lane in a report to congress. He asked for power to decide questions arising under the proposed law.

MORE UNION MOLDERS.

Cincinnati, Aug. 22.—Officers of the International Molders' union report that 5,072 new members were admitted during the first six months of the present year.

USE "SMOKE SCREENS" TO CONCEAL PROFITS

Washington, Aug. 22.—Unadulterated profiteering is the cause for present prices, declared Wm. C. Colver, chairman of the federal trade commission, in a speech in this city.

All talk about inflated currency, dislocation of industry because men joined the military service, turning of industrial plants into munitions factories and similar reasons are but "smoke screens" for the profiteer, said the speaker.

"They tell you that industries were dislocated by turning factories and mills over to war production," he declared. "This is not a sufficient reason for the high cost of living. They tell you that the inflation of currency is another cause. But currency in this country is not as inflated as people would have you think. The heavy exports of food and clothes are talked of as a contributing factor. But all of these reasons are not sufficient to account for the present situation. They are being used as 'smoke screens' in the operation of the most completely devised campaign of profiteering any country ever saw."

In January, he declared, as much or more than 80 per cent of packed foods, dried fruits and other foodstuffs had been bought by speculators before the fruit had ripened on the trees. Fish, which would inhabit rivers several months subsequently, were sold before the ice had left their rivers, he declared. In these deals the profits of speculators, who would sell the products, not once, but many times, would be paid by the consumer. This profiteering, he indicated, is regarded by experts as one of the basic reasons for the high cost of living.

Superbusiness has discovered a new method of nullifying the Sherman anti-trust law by combining competitive products, such as butter, oleomargarine and a vegetable substitute for butter. These products cannot be touched by the law because it provides for monopolies only in one product.

NEW STRIKE WRINKLE.

New York, Aug. 22.—A strike on the Interborough Rapid Transit company's lines, engineered by company officials and its company "union," is the latest thing in strikes.

The company is antagonistic to the bona fide Street Car Men's union, and has organized its own "union," whose members quit to enforce higher wages. Trade unionists declare that the strike was a "frame up" to raise car fares, and point to the number of strikers who were employed by the company to protect its property. It is also declared that the company paid the expenses of the strike committee while the walk out was being arranged.

The "union" has a contract with the company and these workers refused every offer of mediation. Public officials announce that they will investigate the strike, and it is evident that the company is in a weaker position to enforce its demand for a higher fare.

In an editorial, the New York World says "it is plain to everybody that the company virtually welcomed the strike." This newspaper calls attention to the employment of what it terms "a privately organized union" to protect the company's property.

FREY HAS TOUGH JOB.

Cincinnati, Aug. 22.—Editor Frey of the International Molders' Journal has tackled a tough job by insisting that proper terms be used in the discussion of economic questions.

"It is sometimes easy," he says, "to get terms mixed. Recently we listened to an employer who did not seem to recognize any difference between a minimum wage, a living wage and a fair wage.

"For his benefit, and that of a few others, let us say that a minimum wage is a wage below which no one is to be paid.

"A living wage is a wage which, so far as the theory is concerned, is intended to enable the workmen receiving it to purchase the necessities of life. It is based somewhat upon the price of necessities, the cost of living.

"A fair wage is a wage which is intended to give the worker a fair share of the wealth which he assists in producing. It is but seldom that a minimum wage, or a living wage, is a 'fair' wage."

WON'T "FIRE" P. O. HEAD.

Washington, Aug. 22.—A local newspaper predicts that Postmaster General Burleson will not be "fired" despite protests by organized labor, which, it is stated, "never misses an opportunity to swing on the postmaster general."

"Burleson," continues this paper, "is their best argument against government ownership or operation of public utilities without labor being granted a protective voice and vote in management.

"Mr. Burleson is grieved and hurt by the attitude of labor and of the men in his party who every now and then rise up and demand his sacrifice. They don't understand him. He is not antagonistic to labor. He simply believes in keeping the workingman in his place.

"And Albert Sidney knows the place."

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Aug. 22.—Employers and the public press are working overtime to convince the public that trade unionists are responsible for increased prices. Bread has been advanced 1 cent a loaf since the bakery drivers raised wages $1.48 a week and the Labor Call says:

"The carter can deliver 1,100 loaves of bread a week and the increase of 1 cent on that number amounts to $11.10, while the carter's wages were raised $1.48. Thus the public is penalized to the extent of $9.62 a week to cover the cost of $1.48 a week."

CARPENTERS GAIN.

Wilmington, Del., Aug. 22.—In the wage dispute between Carpenters' union No. 626 and employers, an arbitrator has ruled that rates shall be 80 cents an hour. Wages were 70 cents at the beginning of the year and the carpenters asked for 85 cents. Action was delayed and they struck. The contractors agreed to 75 cents and pledged themselves to arbitrate the difference between these figures and the carpenters' demand.

PAINTERS JOIN UNION.

Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 22.—The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers is headed toward the 100,000 mark. A membership of 98,381 at the close of June is reported. During that month 2,221 were added to the membership roll.

R. R. JOBBERY CHARGE MAY BE INVESTIGATED

Washington, Aug. 22.—Congressman Huddleston has introduced a resolution in the house which provides for an investigation of the charges of corruption by railroad interests, made by Glenn E. Plumb, attorney for the railroad brotherhoods. The request is made that the committee's report shall be laid before congress prior to adoption of railroad legislation.

Under the resolution the investigators would ascertain:

"1. Whether it is true, as charged, that the railroads have fraudulently issued vast sums in securities in excess of the consideration paid therefor, and if so, the extent of such usurpation.

"2. Whether it is true, as charged, that such railroads have expended on their properties out of excess earnings large amounts received by them as payment for such service, and if so, to what extent and amount, and how far such expenditures are now represented in their investment accounts.

"3. Whether it is true, as charged, that gifts, grants, aids and donations of great value made to said corporations in aid of the construction of their railways have been appropriated to the private benefit of promoters or capitalized against the public in property investment accounts, and if so, to what extent.

"4. Whether it is true, as charged, that the pay rolls of the railroads while under government control have been padded for practical purposes, and if so, on whose responsibility such expenditures have been made and the extent thereof.

"5. Whether it is true, as charged, that while under government control the managers of the railroads have spent large and unnecessary sums for the maintenance and renewals of their properties and for overcoming past depreciation, and if so, to what extent, and on whom rests the responsibility thereof."

TELLS ACTORS TO STICK.

New York, Aug. 22.—Samuel Untermyer, attorney for striking actors, has notified the strikers that if they consider any settlement that does not include recognition of their organization they are defeated.

"If you now surrender your just right to recognition," he says, "your fight is lost."

Mr. Untermyer is one of America's foremost lawyers. Although he is interested in buildings now used as theaters which have been tied up by the strike, he is serving as counsel for the strikers with the understanding that he shall receive no fee.

A feature of the strike was a parade of actors and actresses, led by a delegation of actors who have just been discharged from the army. The marchers were confronted by a drenching rain, but this did not dampen their enthusiasm. In the line were America's most famous players, a delegation of British actors and several hundred chorus girls who have organized and who are now an affiliate of the Actors' Equity association. The strikers carried a list of 36 plays on the boards or in rehearsals that are affected.

DEMAND EIGHT HOURS

Paris, France, Aug. 22.—Farm laborers are up in arms over the refusal of the French parliament to include them in the recently-enacted eight-hour law. These workers charge that the government listened to the organized farm owners, who insist that an eight-hour day is "impracticable."

The farm laborers are now extending their organization and will apply the shorter work day, regardless of the law. Other demands include a minimum wage, weekly rest day and inspection of labor and hygiene conditions.

"In order to secure sufficient farm labor, the farmers must raise wages to the equivalent of that paid the industrial workers," runs the manifesto of the Agricultural Workers' Federation. "The application of the eight-hour day to agriculture will not reduce the output, since it presupposes more scientific production and the use of farm machinery."

NEWS FROM GERMANY.

Dantzig, Germany, Aug. 22.—The workmen's councils here threatened a general strike if the Scheidemann government delayed signing the peace treaty.

Nuremburg, Germany, Aug. 22.—Fear that the immediate and complete socialization of industry would lead to civil war, such as Russia has experienced, was expressed in the debate on socialization at the trade union congress held in this city.

In seeking to democratize production the congress adopted a resolution demanding that in all establishments employing 20 or more workers, workmen's councils, freely chosen, shall be elected to meet with the representatives of the employers and work out a system of production in conformity with "democratic principles." This plan is much the same as the one proposed by the government.

CONTROL EMPLOYMENT.

New York, Aug. 22.—The state reconstruction committee has recommended to Gov. Smith that the state employment service acquire a monopoly in that field. The commission is convinced that the problem of this phase of unemployment will never be solved while private employment agencies are entrusted with the task. The report excepts trade unions and agencies supplying service of a personal and professional character.

2,068 IDLE COAL CARS.

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 22.—The public service commission of this state has secured figures from actual investigation showing that there are, on side tracks in West Virginia and nearby points 2,068 government steel hopper cars which have never been in use and which are clogging side tracks and interfering with the operation of trains.

Coal operators claim that the scarcity of cars is one reason for present coal prices.

FOUNDRY EMPLOYES UNITE.

Wallace, Idaho, Aug. 22.—Foundry employes at this place have perfected a strong trade union. In the Coeur d'Alene mining district the workers are conducting a successful organizing campaign.

SHOE WORKERS GAIN.

Boise, Idaho, Aug. 22.—The recently - organized Boot and Shoe Workers' union has secured a new agreement with employers in this city. The eight-hour day is established and the rates are $28, $32 and $36 a week.

DEFY INJUNCTION JUDGES

Los Angeles, Aug. 22.—Aroused at the fusilade of injunctions that are being hurled at striking trade unionists in this city, the central labor council unanimously adopted the following resolution by a rising vote:

"Resolved, that the central labor council henceforth shall not expend one cent in any injunction proceeding that may be brought against labor, but on the contrary, will proceed along the lines advocated by the American Federation of Labor, and we recommend that all affiliated unions pursue the same course."

These trade unionists declare that they are entitled to the same protection guaranteed every other citizen who is charged with crime. This guarantee is ignored when workers are on strike. They are ordered by a judge not to do a thing that is perfectly legal if no strike exists, and then if a strikebreaker or gunman tells the court a unionist has violated his order the unionist is assumed to be guilty and is ordered to show why he should not be fined or jailed.

If, however, the strikebreaker or gunman is charged by the police with committing an offense against the law of the land he is assumed to be innocent and every opportunity is afforded him to prove his innocence.

ACTION IS DISAVOWED.

Seattle, Aug. 22.—The executive council of the Washington state federation of labor has disavowed the action of the recent state convention which ordered a referendum on the one-big-union question. Locals have been notified to take no further action in this matter.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Disavowal by officers of the Washington state federation of labor relative to a one-big-union referendum is the result of a notice by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor that if this action was not taken the charter of that state body would be revoked and a new state body organized.

At the last convention of the Washington state federation of labor the officials were instructed to submit a o. b. u. resolution to the referendum, and if same was acted on favorably a state conference would be called.

Officers of the American Federation of Labor called attention of the Washington trade union officials that this action was in violation of their charter pledge to obey the laws of the A. F. of L. and was in violation of the purposes for which state federations of labor are created. The Washington trade unionists were told that when they were chartered by the A. F. of L. they promised to acknowledge the autonomy of national and international unions. Officials of the Washington state federation of labor now accept this position and refuse to be longer connected with an unlawful action by their state convention.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 22.—The Typographical union has compromised its wage demand for newspaper members. The new rates are $30 a week for day work and $33 for night work.

Duluth, Minn., Aug. 22.—Members of the Typographical union employed on newspapers have raised wages 28 per cent, and reduced the work week three hours, or to seven and one-half a day.

The old scale was $28 a week for day work and $31 for night work. The new rates are $36 and $39, with retroactive pay dating from July 1. The union is now negotiating a new scale for commercial shops.

Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 22.—Newspaper printers have raised wages to $42 a week for day work and $45 for night work.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Pocatello, Idaho, Aug. 22.—Trade unionists in this city are preparing for the annual convention of the Idaho state federation of labor, which will assemble here next January.

Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 22.—The convention of the state federation of labor, held in this city, was a record breaker. A new child labor law was demanded, as was woman suffrage and the league of nations. The convention declared against compulsory military training.

Zanesville, Ohio, Aug. 22.—The thirty-sixth annual convention of the Ohio state federation of labor will be held in this city the week of October 13.

OLD ANTI-UNION TRICK.

Manchester, England, Aug. 22.—The Cotton Factory Times prints this document, signed 62 years ago, and which indicates that one anti-union trick is not new:

"Form of Declaration to be signed by every Operative Spinner as an indispensable condition of Hiring.

"I, Richard Waterhead, do hereby solemnly declare that I will not now, nor so long as I continue in the service of Thomas and William Eccles, will I become a member of, or directly or indirectly a subscriber to, or a supporter of any Trade Union, or other Association whatever (the regular and legal Sick Clubs alone accepted).

"As witness my hand this Sixth day of January, 1857. Richard Waterhead. His X mark."

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND.

Washington, Aug. 22. — America's street car lines are paying the penalty for exploitation by financial interests which came into control of them in the 90s, said Delos F. Wilcox of New York city, testifying before the federal electric railways commission.

Mayor Gillen of Newark, N. J., said the transportation system of that city labored under the burden of "$1,000,000 worth of water" in the company's capitalization of $160,000,000. The Newark official predicted that motor busses would eventually absorb the transportation business in his city.

STAGE EMPLOYES GAIN.

Quebec, Canada, Aug. 22.—Stage employes and motion picture operators have increased wages $7 and $10 a week. This is the first time these workers have been recognized by the managers.

BLACKSMITHS GAIN.

Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 22.—An arbitration board has awarded blacksmiths 80 cents an hour and helpers 65 cents.

FOOD COSTS ADVANCE 91 PER CENT

Washington, Aug. 23.—The price of food has advanced 91 per cent from May 15, 1913, to May 15, 1919, and continues to advance, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics. During this period lard increased 146 per cent; flour, 127 per cent; bacon, 110 per cent; corn meal, 107 per cent; pork chops and potatoes, 106 per cent each; ham and lamb, 104 per cent each; eggs, 102 per cent; sugar and hens, 96 per cent each; butter 89 per cent; round steak 87 per cent; plate beef, 86 per cent; chuck roast, 84 per cent; rib roast, 77 per cent; bread, 75 per cent; sirloin, 73 per cent and milk 69 per cent.

The national industrial conference board, representing business men, acknowledges that food costs have increased 85 per cent in the five-year period since the beginning of the war.

Washington, Aug. 23. — Living costs issued by the national industrial conference board show a wide discrepancy from those issued by the United States government.

The conference board was organized three years ago in New York. It is composed of a score of manufacturers' associations and has its headquarters in Boston. These business men say that there is only 70.8 per cent total increase for the five-year period since the beginning of the war (1914-1919) in the average cost of each of the principal items entering into the family budget. The increases are divided as follows: Food, 85 per cent; shelter, 28 per cent; clothing, 100 per cent; fuel, heat and light, 57 per cent; sundries, 63 per cent. This makes the increase for all items 70.8 per cent.

While these figures are formidable to the wage earner, they are less than those contained in a report just issued by the bureau of labor statistics, United States department of labor, which shows that living costs from December, 1914, to June, 1919, have increased as follows in these cities:

Portland, Maine, 74.25 per cent.
Boston, Mass., 72.78 per cent.
New York City, 79.22 per cent.
Philadelphia, 76.21 per cent.
Baltimore, 83.99 per cent.
Norfolk, Va., 87.05 per cent.
Savannah, Ga., 79.76 per cent.
Jacksonville, Fla., 77.48 per cent.
Mobile, Ala., 76.64 per cent.
Houston, Texas, 80.52 per cent.
Portland, Oregon, 69.16 per cent.
Los Angeles, 65.07 per cent.
Seattle, 74.01 per cent.
San Francisco and Oakland, Cal. 65.38 per cent.
Chicago, 74.47 per cent.
Cleveland, 77.22 per cent.
Detroit, 81.36 per cent.
Buffalo, 84.22 per cent.

While the figures of the industrial conference board show a lower rate of increase for living costs over those issued by the government, the conference board acknowledges that costs are liable to increase. It states that "the opinion was general that rents would continue to rise;" that "dealers very generally expressed the opinion that clothing prices were likely to go still higher," and that "coal dealers were generally of the opinion that the price of anthracite would advance further within the next few months, but there were suggestions that the price of bituminous coal might drop." It was also stated that the tendency of gas and electricity rates was "upward."

The conference board recorded the fact, however, that "postage decreased."

WANT PRIVATE CONTROL.

Washington, Aug. 23.—The Chamber of Commerce of the United States announces its expected opposition to the railroad workers' solution of the railroad question. In a statement issued by the chamber's board of directors it is declared that "the demands of the railway labor organizations create a situation which calls for the most serious attention and deepest thought of all citizens."

It is stated that the proposal will increase the nation's debt from "thirty billion dollars to fifty billion dollars." After making this wide estimate, it is declared that the workers' claim that railroad service would be improved "is purely theoretical."

The directors fear the people will depart from "fundamental principles," and close their appeal thusly:

"Government ownership would monopolize and deaden, rather than democratize and revive, railroad transportation. It would paralyze a great industry whose vigorous development is essential to the happiness and prosperity of all our people."

TOBACCO WORKERS GAIN.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Aug. 22.—The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company has granted the eight-hour day with time and one-half for overtime. The Bohannon brothers, Taylor brothers, Bailey brothers, Brown-Williamson and Flint tobacco companies have taken similar action, which affects 11,000 tobacco workers in this city. These workers are joining the Tobacco Workers' union, which is rapidly reaching a 100 per cent basis. Negotiations in this movement were conducted by President McAndrew of the International Tobacco Workers' union, and the conciliatory attitude of officers of the R. J. Reynolds company was a large factor in securing an adjustment of this question and avoiding a strike.

The organization theory is now accepted at Durham, N. C., where two locals of tobacco workers have been formed. At Reidsville, this state, the tobacco workers are also uniting.

WANT MILITARY TRAINING.

Washington, Aug. 22. — Compulsory military training was indorsed by Lieut. Gen. Ballard and Maj. Gen. McAndrew at a hearing on the war department's compulsory training bill, now before the senate military affairs committee. The bill provides for three months' training. Gen. McAndrew said three months' training was insufficient to develop a valuable soldier and that, contrary to general belief, the average time consumed in training American combat divisions abroad was not less than six months.

Gen. Bullard agreed with this sentiment and declared that three months was the minimum.

WILL FORCE RECOGNITION.

Paris, France, Aug. 22.—Compulsory recognition of the right of collective bargaining is the metal workers' slogan, since the failure of their recent strike. The metal employers refuse to recognize the union, although the French law of 1884 declares labor organizations are "legal." This law has never been enforced by the government, and the unions have been forced to secure a statutory right by economic organization. Since the metal workers lost their strike, several weeks ago, the employers have been indulging in wholesale victimization.

REPEAL DAYLIGHT SAVING.

Washington, Aug. 22.—The house has refused to accept President Wilson's veto of a bill to repeal daylight saving.

The first attempt to repeal daylight saving was blocked by the president when he vetoed the big agricultural appropriation bill because it contained a daylight repeal rider. The repeal was then passed as separate legislation, which was vetoed by the president, and the house now rejects the veto.

STRIKING FOR 8 HOURS.

Brussells, Belgium, Aug. 22.—A wave of eight-hour strikes is spreading over Belgium. The legal eight-hour day for miners becomes effective next December, and in mechanical construction, next March. In other industries it has been fought for, shop by shop, with the employers mobilizing every power to resist the workers.

BILL POSTERS UNITE.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Bill posters in the nation's capital have organized an affiliate of the International Alliance of Bill Posters and Billers of America.

OPPOSE WELFARE WORK.

East St. Louis, Ill., Aug. 22.—The Union News, owned by the Butchers' unions of this city and vicinity, has stirred the welfare manager of Swift & Co., meat packers, who answers criticisms by that paper in a letter addressed to the editor.

The welfare manager believes in company "unions," which provide, he says, for a frank discussion of questions, and if an agreement cannot be reached the employes are free agents, the same as before.

To this, the Union News replies:

"Swift & Co. say that if an agreement for better wages and conditions can not be reached the employes would still have the right as free agents. But, workers, you realize that to exercise that free right you must have a 100 per cent union organization, the same as your employers have, to win your point. The employes of the Aluminum Ore company tried the Swift plan in 1916, and all of those who had backbone enough to stand up for the workers' rights were discharged and a strike ensued in 1917. The International Harvester company put in operation a company plan union, and the result was a strike of about 15,000 workers. That was the result of their company plan during July, 1919.

"The Crane company did practically the same thing, hiring a company welfare prospector, and during July, 1919, about 7,000 Crane employes struck."

UNTANGLING O. B. U. MESS.

Indianapolis, Aug. 22.—Officers of the United Mine Workers of America are untangling a mess that members of this union in district No. 18, Canada, got into when they joined the one-big-union aggregation of new world makers.

The miners suspended work, but they woke up when red-hot speeches proved a poor substitute for strike benefits. Then they notified the government that they would return to work under the old agreement. The government declined unless the international union of the United Mine Workers guaranteed that the contract would be observed. The United Mine Workers' officials refused to guarantee anything in connection with a dual organization, and they are now endeavoring, with the assistance of loyal trade union miners, to end the ghost dancing in that district.

DRAFT SHOWS ILLITERACY.

Greensboro, N. C., Aug. 22.—In a report made public by the state superintendent of public instruction statistics gathered from draft registrants show an appalling degree of illiteracy in North Carolina. It is shown that more than 1,000 men between the ages of 21 and 31 reside in Guilford county who are unable to write their names. No distinction is made between white and colored residents, and it is impossible to determine racial percentages of illiteracy.

While North Carolinians have known that illiteracy prevails in the mountain section of the state they did not expect this condition to exist in Guilford county, which is one of the wealthiest counties in the state, and which prides itself on its schools.

NO EFFICIENCY HERE.

New York, Aug. 22.—The state conservation commission reports that out of a total of 2,654,410 horse power that is capable of development in water courses wholly within this state, only 657,110 horse power has been utilized. The wasted power, it is stated, would light and heat every home in this state and turn every wheel in industry.

While these untold millions of dollars of wealth are being wasted many editors, politicians and captains of industry attract attention with their demand for cheap labor and longer hours.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Omaha, Neb., Aug. 22. — Street car men have secured a new wage rate that means an additional $240 a year for each of these workers. The schedule calls for 51 cents an hour the first three months, 53 cents the next nine months and 55 cents thereafter. Other employes received substantial increases.

Clinton, Iowa, Aug. 22.—A division of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Men has been organized in this city.

STRIKES MUST BE LEGAL.

Fort Collins, Col., Aug. 22.—At the convention of the Colorado state federation of labor the delegates came down hard on the gentry who ignore trade union laws. The convention unanimously declared where the preliminaries of a strike do not include the observance of the union's law no support by the state body will be forthcoming.